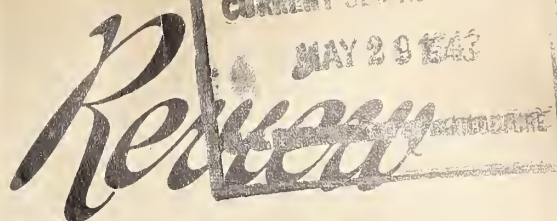


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Extension Service



VOLUME 14

MAY 1943

NO. 5

Full steam ahead on farm-labor program

■ Aware of the responsibility that is theirs, extension agents face the big job of organizing to meet the farm-labor shortage. It is up to them to make the plans work in spite of the difficulties of unskilled labor, of prejudices against the type of workers available, of tardy organization, and many other difficulties with which agents are only too familiar.

A law placing much responsibility on the Extension Service was passed by Congress. A few days later, northeastern directors, their labor assistants, editors, and a few key personnel met to complete plans for their campaign to beat the farm-labor shortage. Following this, the north-central workers met in Chicago, April 23 and 24; the southerners met in Memphis, April 26 and 27; and the westerners in Salt Lake City, April 30 and May 1.

Much had been done before this. A program to help out in the emergency was developed by the Department of Agriculture and in a number of States; and activities to relieve the situation were under way, initiated by a number of public and private organizations. The job of the Extension Service now will be to work all this into a broader national effort in which every organization and every person interested in agriculture has a responsibility.

The cooperation of the Office of War Information is helping to carry the needs of agriculture as a national issue to every citizen. Plugs on familiar radio programs, posters, motion pictures, and national advertisements are carrying the message to support the local work of the county agent and others working on the specific job of locating and placing workers on a particular farm with a labor problem.

The Office of War Information is keeping in close touch with the labor-campaign manager in the Department of Agriculture, who is L. A. Schlup, editor of the *EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW*. With the help of extension agents, he will try to carry on this national advertising and informational program in a way that will support the work in the counties most efficiently. The facilities of the Of-

fice of War Information and of the Department of Agriculture are here to help make this work a complete success.

Extension activities as planned fall into four categories: The Victory Farm Volunteers, or the city young people enrolled for farm work; the Women's Land Army, enrolling town women; an educational campaign for greater labor efficiency on the farm; and local mobilization of all resources in nearby towns to meet emergencies. M. C. Wilson, formerly in charge of Extension Studies and Reports, has been appointed to direct the extension labor program, assisted by H. M. Dixon, who has been in charge of extension agricultural economics work.

The Victory Farm Volunteers are now being enrolled in many cities. Early in March, the Office of Education sent out suggestions to school counselors on training Victory Farm Volunteers. High schools in many cities near agricultural areas are ready to go ahead. Dr. Frederic B. Knight of Purdue University has come to Washington to head up this work for the Extension Service, and Dr. Frank Lathrop of the Office of Education has charge of VFV work in schools.

The Women's Land Army will be in charge of Florence L. Hall, formerly field agent, home demonstration work, Northeastern States. Application blanks and a circular of general

information for recruiting city and town women are being prepared. It is planned to cooperate closely with all organizations now working on recruiting city women for work on farms.

The educational plan to increase labor efficiency is receiving attention in many States. Such simple and practical leaflets as the one from New Jersey, *You're the Boss*, help farmers to see the point. Demonstrations in teaching unskilled farm workers, as given at a number of extension conferences by L. J. Fletcher, are proving an effective way of initiating both county agents and farmers into the field of efficiency studies to save labor. In the Federal Extension Service, L. M. Vaughan is directing this work.

One big job which is now demanding attention everywhere is the organization of the county farm labor center. Farm labor committees are functioning satisfactorily in most counties, helping to determine labor needs and taking part in other activities. Facts must be collected; and information from the 1943 farm plan work sheets, records from the U. S. Employment offices, and census facts need to be brought together and summarized in the light of local judgment to find out just how many young people, how many women of the Land Army, and how many local emergency workers will be needed, and when. In this work, the extension agents will cooperate closely with the U. S. Employment offices. Barnard Joy will have charge of this phase of the activities for the Federal Extension Service.

War Food Administration Organized

■ The Federal Extension Service is a part of the new War Food Administration set up in the Department of Agriculture by President Roosevelt "to assure an adequate supply and efficient distribution of food to meet war and essential civilian needs."

Besides the Extension Service, the new organization includes the Food Production Administration (except the Farm Credit Administration), the Food Distribution Administration, and the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Chester Davis, appointed by the President as administrator, reports directly to the Presi-

dent. He will be remembered by extension agents as the administrator of AAA from 1933 to 1936. As associate director, Mr. Davis has named Jesse W. Tapp, who was associated with him in the early days of AAA.

Administrator Davis was charged by the President with the job of mobilizing agricultural manpower and has appointed Lt. Col. Jay L. Taylor, detailed from the Army, to take charge. Colonel Taylor is familiar with farm problems, having been reared on farms and ranches and having served as a 4-H Club member in Texas.

California produces home food

R. B. EASSON, Extension Specialist in Agricultural Economics, California

The California Extension Service has already filled requests for more than three-quarters of a million circulars on home food production. It estimates that more than a million Victory Gardens will be grown under its guidance in 1943.

The 1943 Victory Garden and Home Food Production Campaign in California was begun on October 20, 1942, when 67 representatives of different agencies and organizations participated in a State-wide conference called by the director of agricultural extension. The conference concerned itself with plans and recommendations which those attending believed would increase home food production throughout the State.

Two objectives were in view: First, to devote a greater proportion of commercial production toward the immediate war effort and, second, to improve the nutrition of the people by increasing home production of vegetables, fruits, animals, and animal products. The conference members were assigned to committees to consider various aspects of the problem as follows: (1) Home production of vegetables and fruit; (2) home production of meat and animal products; (3) home food preservation; (4) youth in the food production program; (5) Victory Garden harvest shows.

These committees reported their recommendations at a final general session where they were adopted as representing the opinion of the entire conference. The recommendations were then sent to the counties for the guidance of local committees.

Following the State-wide conference, the county agents called county conferences of a similar nature where the recommendations of the State meeting were considered and a plan of work was outlined for carrying on the county campaign. County conferences were held in 44 counties during November and December 1942, with 2,200 leaders participating. These county conferences were organized similar to the State conference; and, in addition, the customary procedure was to appoint the several subcommittee chairmen as a permanent executive committee to further the campaign and to act in an advisory capacity in coordinating all county activities. This executive committee is generally known as the county home food production committee.

By March 1, the home food production campaign was arousing tremendous interest throughout the State. The Los Angeles County committee had set up a preliminary goal of 100,000 Victory Gardens. Latest reports indicate that this number will be greatly exceeded. The San Francisco committee has been particularly active. A 1-day short course was held in the civic auditorium, attended by 3,500 city people. A recent

survey indicates that in many blocks of urban areas in San Francisco, 75 percent of the homes have Victory Gardens; and, in addition, some 700 residents have requested permits for construction of back-yard poultry houses. City squares and parks display demonstration gardens. The county committee estimated that there would be 60,000 Victory Gardens in San Francisco by May 1.

Preliminary surveys in other sample counties, as carried on by schools, neighborhood advisers, or other organized groups, report the probable number of gardens as follows:

County	Total dwelling units ¹	Spring gardens estimate
Butte	14,488	7,000
Contra Costa	31,297	25,000
Merced	14,464	9,000
Monterey	40,000	30,000
Napa	8,752	6,000
Orange	49,019	16,000
Sacramento	51,715	30,000
San Joaquin	38,210	17,000
Stanislaus	22,848	15,000
Solano	15,312	7,000
San Mateo	37,230	15,000
Total	323,335	177,000

¹ 1940 Census.

The home food production campaign was designed to cover a wider field than the growing of vegetable gardens. It will be noted that all conferences had a special committee on Home Production of Meat and Animal Products. The shortage of meat, as well as the rationing regulations, resulted in a demand for information and advice on poultry and rabbit management. To meet

this demand, the agricultural Extension Service printed the following emergency home food production circulars: A Back Yard Poultry House, Feeding and Care of the Back Yard Poultry Flock, Hutches for a Back Yard Rabbitry, and Home Rabbit Production. Several counties prepared circulars on similar subjects for local distribution. The evergrowing interest in the home production of poultry and rabbits is indicated by requests received by the Extension Service, since November 1, 1942, for more than a quarter of a million circulars on those subjects. Sample back yard poultry houses are on display on most courthouse lawns.

The agricultural Extension Service prepared mats for distribution to newspapers and published 20 emergency food production circulars written by extension specialists. The demand for this material is tremendous. The State extension office has already filled requests for more than three-quarters of a million of the State circulars on vegetable gardening, poultry, and rabbit management, and other home food production and home food preservation subjects. In addition thereto, county offices prepared home food production circulars for local distribution; and, to date, 200,000 copies of these locally prepared circulars have been distributed. During a 3-month period—November, December, and January—the county agents and specialists took part in 468 educational and special home food production meetings, with an attendance of 27,808 persons.

The preliminary county estimates and the present trend, which continues unabated, would seem to justify the estimate that there will be more than a million Victory Gardens or other home food production activities in California during 1943.



Rural women pledged to supply the home food for Victory

■ "In the front lines of war service today are 6 million farm women," said Governor Osborn of Arizona in opening the State roll call for all rural women to grow their own home food supply for Victory. Gardens, chickens, cows, pigs, rabbits, goats, and fruit trees are some of the weapons with which the women are waging war. The spring months are devoted to mobilizing their forces, and communiques from the home front indicate great activity.

In the fertile Corn Belt, Kansas is typical of midwestern activities. More than 100,000 women answered the March roll call with an "Aye, Aye." The food requirements for school lunches and the extra hired help during rush seasons figured prominently in their plans for food production and preservation. Exhibits in Kansas store windows, libraries, and other public centers carried the home food supply message to any passer-by. Ministers preached about it in their sermons of March 14; neighborhood leaders made a special call on their neighbors to talk about it; 6 weekly press releases, widely carried in the press, told all about it; and radio fans heard about it on KSAC's Homemakers' Hour or from one of the 27 cooperating commercial radio stations. The aim is that all Kansas shall know about the need for growing a home food supply for Victory and shall enroll to do their part.

20,000 South Dakota Women Sign Card

South Dakota used an enrollment card and a pledge card in red, white, and blue, which 20,000 rural women had signed by March 15. Community ceremonies featured outstanding citizens who laid the "cornerstone of health" in a ceremony similar to laying the cornerstone of a building.

In each Nebraska county, 12 key women volunteered to receive training at a refresher course and to serve as demonstrators in food preservation. The extension staff has an outstanding radio program scheduled on the family food supply and has conducted 26 adult garden classes in the city of Lincoln which were attended by 500 city gardeners.

Illinois is conducting a radio short course for gardeners and a school for urban gardeners, and neighborhood leaders are busily covering the ground in their own small groups. Missouri home demonstration club members "adopt" some friend in town and see that they have their food planned.

As far south as Puerto Rico, and as far north as Alaska, rural women are signing pledge cards and surveying the possibilities. In Alaska, local leaders are finding out just how much can be grown there this year. One leader whose summons for the roll-call survey

found her on the trap line assured Mrs. Lydia O. Fohn-Hansen, home demonstration leader, that she would be on hand in March to visit her neighbors.

In 36 Oregon counties, special neighborhood-leader training meetings were held in connection with this campaign. Letters were sent to 750 ministers.

A Utah neighborhood leader first practices what she preaches by keeping her store purchases down to an average of about \$2 per month. She and her family pitted celery, potatoes, rutabagas, turnips, beets, and cabbage, and canned or froze an adequate quantity of peas, corn, beets, and tomatoes. Each morning she milks 7 cows by hand, and her young son milks 17 with the milking machine. For wartime food supply, they are increasing their dairy herd to 40 cows. Last year they had 1,000 chickens; this year they are raising 1,000 fryers and 2,000 chicks for laying. Last year they had only enough hogs to take care of the surplus and waste material on the farm; this year they have bought 30 young pigs.

Maine Features Home Gardens

In another corner of the United States, Maine featured home gardens at Farm and Home Week, March 22 to 25. The New England States, with a reputation for self-sufficiency, are on the job for a home food supply for Victory. In Connecticut, the Extension Service and the OCD worked out a plan to cover the State, both urban and rural. A leading department store in Hartford has 210,000 people on its contact list and is promoting the production and conservation program, in cooperation with the Extension Service, with window exhibits as well as talks and demonstrations in its assembly hall.

Massachusetts series of radio talks are given under such attractive titles as Packets of Sunshine, telling of the right varieties to plant; Dig or Diet, giving information on soil preparation; Blitz in the Garden, divulging the facts on pest control, Plaster the Pests; Spring Styles in the Garden; and Spade and Save.

New York is now working on five major programs, all directed toward the production of the home food supply. They are The Victory Garden, with the goal of 1 million gardens; the Victory Circle Tour; the Kitchen Kommandos' Pledge; the State Department of Education course of instruction for rural people on food production and conservation, with home demonstration agents cooperating; and the supervision of the food-preservation phase of "war nutrition service" of the State.

Nutrition "weeks and months" throughout

Pennsylvania feature Home Food Supply for Victory. Four new workers were added to the State staff to help with the expanded program. Rhode Island pledge cards were printed in newspapers. More than 1,700 returned signed clippings to the State office.

Dixie also is preparing for the job ahead. Although varied names have been given to campaigns throughout the South, all have centered around the role of the farm family in the war job. Oklahoma's goal is to enroll each of 179,687 farm families.

Arkansas Observes War Pledge Month

Home Demonstration War Pledge Month was observed in Arkansas. V Pledges were left in the homes of all home demonstration club members and their neighbors who agreed to carry out their part of the war program. "I never saw people as a whole so intent on anything as they are in planting and growing food—an interest probably originating from visions of an empty pantry," says Connie J. Bonslagel, State home demonstration agent.

"Today my block leader came to me with a Victory Garden Pledge," writes a Mississippi woman, "and I was glad to sign it. The size of my garden is 10 feet by 12 feet. Last year three families ate tomatoes, mustard, and lettuce from my plot. I shall hope to produce more this year. What I am happy about, however, is that the neighborhood-leader system is reaching to my door."

"Thirty-six thousand four hundred and eighteen Alabama farm families were signed up the first week of the Roll Call for Rural Women," telegraphs Director P. O. Davis.

Farm Women Enroll in South

"Kentucky," says a wire from Thomas Cooper, extension director, "estimates that 18,000 farm women enrolled in the roll call in Kentucky during the first week of the roll call." A Victory Pledge card printed in color is being given in Florida. Although a recent freeze killed all vegetable crops, plantings have been made again.

Two records transcribed at the homes of 2 farm women who had done outstanding county work in food production and conservation were broadcast throughout Puerto Rico as a part of that island's roll call observation. During the first week, 2,958 rural women were enrolled.

One of the outstanding parts of each State's program has been the attention given to improved types of literature. Color photography effectively illustrates bulletins put out by Georgia and North Carolina. Clear-cut drawings, some in cartoon type, have been used in war series leaflets put out by Tennessee and Louisiana. "Leave-at-Home" leaflets simply written and well illustrated, have been popular in all the States. These changes in literature, both as to content and appearance, may well be improvements which will be carried over into peacetime.

Neighborhood leaders serve labor cause

In many counties, neighborhood leaders are taking their place in plans to meet the labor shortage. Some of the ways in which the leaders are functioning are indicated by these examples from three States.

Neighbors agree on machinery use

■ The farm-labor problem was the first to be considered when the neighborhood-leader system was set up in Tipton County, Ind., in June 1942. From the beginning, Walter M. Clary, county agricultural agent, assisted the neighborhood leaders in considering the problems of this highly agricultural county from the labor angle.

Located in central Indiana, in the center of the Corn-hog Belt, Tipton County, with no large war plants or camps, is devoted largely to the production of crops such as corn, soybeans, and oats, and of livestock, particularly hogs. The terrain is level, and the soil is fertile. Its chief problem is the production and harvesting of its crops.

When the neighborhood-leader system was organized under the direction of County Agent Clary, a man was selected in each neighborhood as a community cooperator. It was his duty to obtain cooperation in the use of labor, machinery, and transportation within his neighborhood or community.

In the fall of 1942, the community cooperator started his first county-wide job. The 1942 acreage of soybeans had been increased to 15,400 acres, almost double the 8,844 acres of the previous year. The yield per acre also promised to be higher than that of 1941. Also, the weed problem would decrease the efficiency of the combine in some fields. There was a possibility that many acres of soybeans might not be harvested ahead of bad weather.

The Tipton County neighborhood-leader committee approved the use of a cooperative plan. Township meetings of the community cooperators were held, and the possibility of a neighborhood-cooperation plan on the use of combines and labor was discussed. Some neighborhoods also approved the use of corn pickers cooperatively. The community cooperator was the chairman or organizer in his neighborhood. Many community cooperators received fine cooperation in the program of getting the job done earlier, getting combines to do custom work, and obtaining trade-of-work agreements.

On November 15, after which date wet weather prevented the combining of soybeans except for a day or so at a time, only about 6 percent of the acreage of soybeans was uncombined. Some neighborhoods or communities had their entire crop of soybeans combined. In neighborhoods and communities that had the most active cooperative arrangements, a higher percentage of the acreage was combined on the average.

The cooperative plan on labor and machinery made it possible to get a high percentage of the soybeans combined before wet weather in the fall of 1942. A further expansion of this program continued during March 1943 to obtain more working agreements on labor and farm machinery during the year.

Labor and farm implement shortages are affecting Tipton County as they are other counties. The supply of reliable year-around farm hands has been exhausted long ago, as has the supply of experienced seasonal farm laborers. Farmers are of the opinion that the trading of farm labor and cooperative operation of farm implements will do the job more easily, faster, and better than the use of a large number of inexperienced farm laborers.

Thus, the modern, labor-saving farm implements and labor available can be concentrated on one field at a time and then moved on to a neighbor's field. Two neighborhoods already have worked out their summer and fall neighborhood-cooperative plans before the series of meetings starts.

The plan they have worked out is as follows: The community cooperator will call together his neighbors. They will know what implements they have among themselves and with their closest neighbors will work out trade-of-work arrangements on work such as haymaking. On the larger jobs, such as combining soybeans and picking corn, a neighborhood cooperative plan will be organized. Some owners may not want to rent or lend their combines or corn pickers to be operated by a neighbor. Working agreements will be planned whereby this owner may do the combining or corn picking and a neighbor may drill wheat, do the plowing, and grind feed.

The success of this program within the neighborhood depends largely upon the interest of the community cooperator in the program. If he is a good neighbor and interested in the community cooperation, he will obtain good cooperation from the majority of his neighbors.

Getting peanuts to market

A labor shortage in November threatened disastrous delay to harvesting of the peanut crop in Brown County, Tex., especially threshing and baling of the hay. No transient or outside labor could be obtained.

The County Agricultural Victory Council, the Texas neighborhood-leader group, took charge and organized neighborhood-labor groups. Every farm family joined in the

effort. Here's County Agricultural Agent C. W. Lehmberg's story of how it was done.

"Daylight hours were not long enough, so the work was carried into the night. Automobile lamps furnished light. Threshing machines, balers, and trucks ran until the small hours of the night, but the job was done and the crops saved.

"An outstanding feature of the joint undertaking was hauling the nuts to warehouses. Growers pooled their trucks for this part of the task. In several instances, tires were removed from trucks to equip one for service. In another case, a wheel and the body of a truck were removed to the running gear of another because it was better qualified to carry a big load. By sharing labor, trucks, and even gasoline, the job was completed successfully.

"The women did their share by providing food and coffee to keep the gangs going."

Evolving a plan

Eighteen neighborhood leaders were appointed in Hamilton County, Kans., early in 1942 before the labor shortage became serious. These leaders met to consider ways and means of meeting the problem and developed a farm-labor program. This program, including education, fact finding, and action, was explained to farm operators at two Saturday afternoon meetings, April 18 and 25, and farmers agreed to cooperate in putting the plan into effect.

To get at the facts first, neighborhood leaders found out just how much labor was available on each farm in the neighborhood and how many workers would be needed and just when they would be needed. They also collected facts on farm operations and how much of the past year's labor was still available. Publicity was given to these activities of the neighborhood leaders. In addition to the leader surveys, the schools gathered information on available school youth, and the schools and the Defense Council found out about available "town labor."

The county agent served as the employment officer and worked with the U. S. Employment Service. Local people directed migratory workers to the county agent, and the USES brought in workers from Missonri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Iowa. As far as possible, "orders" were sent in by neighborhood leaders 5 or 6 weeks ahead of the need. These were routed to the Garden City office of the USES.

The consensus of leaders is that the needs were quite well met in 1942. In the sugar-beet harvest, 70 youths were released from school for half of the day, and workers from Syracuse helped in the beet fields. The high-school youths were also employed during the summer vacation.

The neighborhoods divided into groups of five or six operators for exchange of work and machinery. There have been no problems of misuse of machinery or unsatisfactory

relationships as a result of the past year's experience. Rather, many farmers seem to enjoy this old-time practice of neighborliness. The wholesome community spirit in Hamilton County and the general awareness of the war issues are thought to be factors in the suc-

cess of "mutual aid" phases of the program, but intelligent leadership and painstaking organization deserve much of the credit. The same program is being followed in 1943. The USES is signing up the neighborhood leaders as volunteer farm-placement representatives.

Training new hired men

Training men and boys whose labor is not used at maximum efficiency on their own farms goes forward. In 25 States, 60 short courses are now being offered under this plan. From the cut-over land in northern Wisconsin and the mountains of Kentucky, they have come to the State Agricultural College for a few weeks' training for work on dairy farms, as described in these two items:

Twenty-two farmers eager for training

■ As part of the program to help relieve the farm labor shortage the College of Agriculture and Home Economics of the University of Kentucky trained 22 farmers from Adair, Wayne, Pulaski, Russell, Rockcastle, Casey, and Whitley Counties in Kentucky. These men were selected by the Farm Security Administration. They arrived in Lexington Saturday, January 30, and were housed in a hotel in downtown Lexington. The staff spent Saturday afternoon and Sunday getting acquainted with the men and getting information about their experience and the type of work in which they would like to engage after the close of the training program. Practically all of the men had had experience with walking plows, scythes, and mowing machines; and most of them had done such farm jobs as harnessing and driving teams, fixing fences, cutting, shocking, and harvesting corn, and milking by hand. Few of the men had operated tractors, two-row corn planters, combines, or ensilage cutters; and none had used milking machines.

The training program began at 5 o'clock on the morning of February 1, when one group of men reported at the dairy barn. After 3 days in and around the barn, during which time the men became familiar with all operations common to a large commercial dairy, they changed to farm machinery. Two full days were devoted to the study and operation of tractors, mowers, binders, corn planters, grain drills, plows, rakes, hay loaders, ensilage cutters, feed grinders, and tobacco setters.

Then the men spent one-half day at the poultry farm, one-half day studying vegetable and fruit production, and one day working with hogs, including some practice in slaughtering. One valuable feature of the course was a farm trip. Dairy farms near Lexington were visited, and the men had an opportunity to see actual farm operations under conditions similar to those in which they might expect to be placed.

At the end of the short course, each man was awarded a certificate which stated that he had successfully completed a certain number of hours in each type of work. Twenty of the men were placed on dairy farms and general farms around Lexington, Shelbyville, and Louisville, Ky., and two were placed on farms in Ohio.

In such a short period of time we did not hope to give men extensive training in any phase of agriculture, but rather our plan was to give them an opportunity to become acquainted with a type of agriculture that is entirely different from that to which they had been accustomed in their home counties and to make it easier for them to adjust themselves to new conditions. The college is following up these men to find out how well they are succeeding in their new work. They were eager to learn and cooperated wholeheartedly with our staff during the entire short course. The men have not been on the job long enough to determine how well they are adapting themselves to their surroundings, but it is our opinion that they will have no difficulty in fitting themselves into central Kentucky farming situations.—*L. J. Horlacher, assistant dean in resident teaching, University of Kentucky.*

400 trained by planting time

A second battalion of Wisconsin's "land army"—140 young men to supply needed labor for strategic farms—were already on farms March 15, according to representatives of the 3 organizations which sponsored this unique movement to help ease farm manpower shortages.

The program was developed by representatives of the Farm Security Administration, United States Employment Service, and the University of Wisconsin. Its formula is simple: Get trained farm workers located where they can do the most good.

It began late last year. Since then each of the three agencies has been doing its share of the total task.

At the start it was apparent that untapped labor supplies existed in northern Wisconsin, chiefly on the farms that were too small to use all the labor they had available. It was equally apparent that dairy production on the larger farms in the southern part of the State would be badly handicapped and the food-production effort slowed down through labor shortages.

Surveys carried on by county agents confirmed these conclusions, and so FSA men went to work recruiting the underemployed young men from the smaller farms for jobs where they could contribute in full measure to winning the war.

But dairying is a technical occupation for which many of the boys were unprepared. Every farmer is aware that it takes plenty of knowledge and background to farm well, and particularly is this true of livestock farming.

That's where the University of Wisconsin came into the picture. Using the facilities of the annual winter short course, and under the supervision of Short Course Director John R. Barton, it provided a 5 weeks' refresher course with the goal of helping these lads to fit into their new jobs and their new communities.

Meanwhile, the idea was extending elsewhere through the country. George Hill, the University of Wisconsin rural sociologist who has been in charge of the county labor surveys, was granted a leave of absence to go to Washington and head the farm labor section of FSA. Under his direction, there were almost 60 such courses opened in 25 States.

Training in the Wisconsin refresher course covered a broad schedule. Then at the end of the 5 weeks the first battalion of 50 boys was graduated, and the U. S. Employment Service took over the job hunting for them. They were placed almost as soon as they had finished their class work.

A few days after the first group finished, a second group was on the campus, repeating the courses in farm machinery, dairying, crops, farm animals, and community living. This group numbers about 140, and will be through with its training by mid-March.

There are special plans for the third section, which will begin training at that time. Farmers will already be planning their spring work, and so these 150 lads will find what previous classes learned in 5 weeks—and in a very condensed course—crammed into 4 for them. Regular courses will still be supplemented by the usual programs of lectures, forums, field trips, and other activities.

Placement is not proving to be any problem at all. Farm people are clamoring for help, and particularly the kind the Wisconsin program can produce. Supply, and not demand, seems to be the controlling factor. But by planting time there will be nearly 400 of these young workmen contributing their time to bring Wisconsin its best food-production year.—*A. W. Hopkins, Extension editor, Wisconsin.*

Plantation tenants grow their own food

JACK FLOWERS, Associate Extension Editor, Mississippi

■ Going are the days when the majority of tenant families purchase food for themselves and feed for their livestock from the plantation commissary or the local grocer. At least, this is true of the 439 Negro tenant families on the King and Anderson plantations at Clarksdale, Miss.

Every family has a garden, and more than half of the families have their own cows, chickens, and hogs. The tenants are also increasing their feed production.

This recently inaugurated program of increased food and feed production has proved beneficial not only to the 1,500 Negroes included in the 439 families who are tenants on the King and Anderson plantations, but to the plantation owners as well.

"The labor turnover has been less, the general health of the tenants is better due to more adequate food supplies and better-planned and prepared meals; and the general spirit of the workers is better," according to the Anderson brothers—W. K. and E. L. Anderson, Jr.

Preservation of foods in the past was almost unheard of, at least it was not practiced by the majority of the tenants. A few of the farm workers had small gardens, but their shelves then contained mostly chowchow, pickles, and preserves.

But the war has brought out the "plain truth." That is, the only sure way to have a good living on the farm is to produce the foods and feeds needed; because if the tenant family doesn't produce plenty of food, it will usually go without much of the food it needs.

And if the tenants do not produce plenty of feed for their livestock, usually they will feed so sparingly, that the livestock will go hungry some of the time.

The tenants, some of whom have been on the plantation for nearly a half century, last year canned 63,000 quarts of foodstuff. Last fall, they put on an exhibit for the first time, with more than 300 families participating. A total of 1,800 jars of foodstuff were exhibited in addition to fresh vegetables and eggs.

"We didn't know that beans were so valuable to can until we started eating some last winter," said Alberta and Cleveland Ford, who put up 314 quarts of foodstuff last year in addition to curing a large quantity of meat. "We have been here 23 years and hope to be here 23 more years," added Alberta when asked how she liked farm work.

The plantation furnishes each tenant family with a large package of garden seeds. This year the management purchased 120,000 cabbage plants and 30,000 pounds of seed Irish potatoes.

W. K. Anderson said that he had found the Extension Service most helpful and ex-

plained that "farmers are most fortunate to have such splendid help."

Fact is, the Andersons think so much of the extension help that, in addition to the regular county agents, the plantation has employed a full-time Negro agent to help the tenants with their field and garden crops and their livestock.

B. F. McLaurin, who has been employed by the plantation for the past year as farm specialist, is a typical country doctor, serving the sick fields, gardens, and livestock. He takes the garden seed to each family, thus saving them time.

The tenants are also assisted by the extension force of the county, which includes Harris Barnes, county agent; Mildred Garrett, home demonstration agent; W. R. Meredith, assistant county agent; W. E. Ammons, Negro county agent, and Geneva Edwards, Negro home demonstration agent.

Farmers Raise Livestock

Livestock on a general crop farm not only helps to increase the size of business but also improves the balance of the business, as it allows greater efficiency in the use of labor, buildings, and home-grown feeds. Both the tenant and the landlord gain by such an improvement in the business organization.

Approximately half of the families have a cow, and about 75 percent of them have hogs of their own. There has also been a substantial increase in poultry production, and most of the tenants hatch their own chicks. One tenant brings in 20 dozen eggs a week to be marketed by the management.

The plantation has about 750 hogs, and a carefully kept farrowing record on each sow provides the most practical basis for selecting future breeding stock. A separate pen and farrowing quarters are provided, and a guard rail is placed around the wall to help keep the pigs from being crushed.

It is important to the landlord as well as to the tenant that enough corn, oats, hay, and other feeds be produced on the farm for the tenants' livestock. Permanent pastures and improved grass have been provided on most of the plantation units, and most of the families have suitable pasture for their livestock.

Of importance to both the landlord and the tenant is the rate of milk production of the dairy herd. To improve production, it is necessary that the tenant do a better job of caring for the herd, that the landlord furnish better cows, or that the cows be better fed. This plan is being followed by the King and Anderson plantations, and "everything is being done to furnish the tenants better cows."

The plantation has a model dairy where grade A milk is produced for the plantation employees.

The tenants, most of whom are members of the Farm Bureau, are extended credit, if needed, to purchase commercial feed for cows and hogs. This year the management is encouraging the tenants to grow more corn, and most of them have their own corn crops.

Improvement in the health of the tenants has been remarkable. This is attributed largely to more adequate food supplies and better planned and prepared meals. Another important factor is the health program conducted on the plantation by the county health department. Syphilis has been reduced from 25 percent to 10 percent in the past 3 years.

More tenants realize now that with the increased food and seed production, they will be able to do what many tenants have already been doing to their own great satisfaction and benefit; that is, to finance this year's farming out of last year's savings, rather than to finance this year's farming out of the expected receipts from this year's crops.

The King and Anderson plantations, located mostly in Coahoma County but extending into Quitman and Sunflower Counties, had their beginning in 1876 when Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Anderson and C. W. King settled in Coahoma County.

Today the plantations consist of more than 16,000 acres, of which more than 12,000 are in cultivation. Each of the 10 units is managed by a plantation manager, one of whom is Randle Ross, Negro, who has been on the plantation about 48 years.

The plantations are supervised by W. K. Anderson, E. L. Anderson, Jr., C. G. Smith, J. C. Stevens, and C. Roy King.

Each time the ownership of a rented farm changes hands, each time a new tenant is selected, whenever farming methods are improved, in fact, with every change in the price level, a new tenancy problem develops. The task is to establish sound landlord-tenant relationships that will function most satisfactorily today and also will be readily adjustable to the changed conditions of tomorrow.

The plantation live-at-home program is doing much to help farmers and farm women think more about the things that are fundamental and how they can encourage their children to love the farm and the farming people and turn their faces toward the home community instead of the distant city.

An invitation from England

W. E. Johnson, formerly with the Oregon Extension Service, cordially invites any extension worker taken by war work to England to visit him at his home 10 miles south of Manchester. The address is 16 Chiltern Drive, Hale, Cheshire. Mr. Johnson is at his office, 4 Clarence Street, Manchester, 2, England, until 5 o'clock except Saturdays when he leaves at 12:30.

Ready for the income tax

■ Four out of five of the 1,050 farmers in Benton County, Ind., are keeping systematic farm records for 1943. Due to an organized effort on the part of the county agricultural extension leaders, cooperating with agricultural bankers, all but about 50 of these farmers have obtained Indiana farm account books, prepared and published by Purdue University extension agricultural economists, for keeping their accounts. The other 50 have kept their own records for a number of years.

This unusual record of achievement was accomplished in the following manner:

Realizing that it has become necessary for an increasing number of farmers to file Federal income tax reports, E. M. Christen, county agricultural agent, got the cooperation of the key banker of the county, and a drive was started to get farm account books into the hands of every farmer in the county by January 1.

Starting December 1, this banker wrote to each of the banks in the county, proposing that they cooperate in the distribution of the books, the banks agreeing to do this. First, they bought 1,050 postal cards with reply cards attached. One of these cards, with a message as to the value of the farm account books and how they might be obtained, was sent to each farmer in the county.

The card, which was signed by the county agent, instructed the farmer to call at the agricultural extension office, or at his local

bank, for an account book. On the attached reply card was a form for the farmer to sign, stating that he would call at the bank or at the extension office on an approximate date for his book. A place was provided for his signature and address.

Approximately one-fourth of the cards had been returned within a week. At the end of that time, a second card was mailed to the remaining farmers, again calling the matter to their attention. This was signed by the County Bankers' Association. Another fourth of the farmers replied to this request.

The need for beginning accounts as of January 1 was emphasized, and those who did not call for their books on the date specified were again reminded by postal card. The banks were provided with sheets for keeping the names and addresses of everyone who obtained a book, and these sheets were then turned over to the extension office.

The county extension office has arranged a 12-month program designed to assist all farmers who have obtained farm account books in keeping a more accurate record of receipts and disbursements for 1943. Letters will be mailed to them throughout the year, at various cropping seasons, advising them what information should be recorded and where in the book that information should be kept.

To date, about 800 books have been distributed to farmers. In addition, the National Farm Loan Association has purchased enough copies for all their members.

An acre of machinery for sale

■ An acre of second-hand farm machinery went on the auction block in Burlington

County, N. J., recently, and another achievement was chalked up for the effective work-

ing of the neighborhood-leader system.

It started in a meeting of the directors of Burlington County Cooperative Poultry Auction at Mount Holly. The shortage of farm machinery came up—as it does in most farmer conversations these days—and someone advanced the idea that a lot of good machinery was gathering rust on farms where it was no longer needed.

If all that machinery could be assembled at a central point and sold to farmers who had use for it, the machinery situation would be eased up considerably.

They voted to hold the sale at the Poultry Auction, and donated the services of the auctioneer and clerk free of charge.

When they came to the question of how to round up the machinery, County Agent Dan Kensler had the answer for them—the Extension Volunteer Corps would take it over. The Extension Volunteer Corps is the New Jersey term for the neighborhood leaders.

Volunteers Conduct Canvass

The volunteers turned out nearly 100 percent and conducted a farm-to-farm canvass, listing the machinery which farmers agreed to bring to the sale. When the sale day came, the machinery and equipment covered an acre of ground. Some of it was little better than junk, but most of it was in good shape or could be repaired at small expense.

A total of 519 implements and articles went under the auctioneer's hammer, the sale grossing \$5,185. Included among the items were practically every kind of farm machine—wagons, plows, cultivators, planters, spreaders, harrows, sprayers, binders, hay loaders, and even a truck and a tractor.

More than 800 people were on hand, despite a combination sleet and driving rainstorm which forced Philip Croshaw, manager of the auction, to suspend operations when the sale was half over. The next week, however, the weather was more favorable, and the sale was wound up with another big crowd present.

The auction was so successful that it was voted to make it an annual event, and County Agent Kensler believes the idea could profitably be adopted in many other counties.

Phillip Croshaw, manager of the Burlington County Cooperative Poultry Auction, and County Agent Dan Kensler smile broadly at the success of their scheme for redistributing farm machinery.



One Way

Visual aids for Victory Gardens

■ The swarms of new gardeners seeking information can be helped with some of the visual aids now available from Federal sources. The latest of these is an OWI poster, "Plant a Victory Garden." This poster has been distributed to State officers, and you may already have received your copies.

Among the slide films are several new ones and a modernization of an old one. For farm garden information, Nos. 634 and 635 are useful. They were made in one Maryland garden from the start of the season to harvesttime. The first one covers the planning and preparation of the garden, the second, the care and harvesting. No. 634 has 42 frames and is available in both single and double frame. No. 635 has 57 frames and is also available in both sizes. The double-frame size is recommended, especially if you mount it in slides. A lecture-type script accompanies each of these films.

For the suburbanite who wants to stretch his ration book "way out" with a Victory Garden, we recommend No. 641, *The New Gardener*. This takes the beginner step by step through all the stages of preparation and planting. The scenes were made in North Carolina but could have been made anywhere. This is also available in both sizes and contains 49 frames.

Slide film 503 (62 frames), *Insect Pests of Garden Vegetables and Their Control*, has not been changed, but the lecture notes have. Scarcities in materials for insecticides and an approach geared to the new gardener dictated the changes. The notes have been changed to the straight lecture type, which is proving popular. Agents having old notes for 503 can get the new version without charge by writing to the Extension Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Only the new version will be supplied with purchases of new strips. This film is available in single frame only.

The Little Exhibits planned for nutrition use are still popular. These exhibits are printed on poster paper and may be cut out and mounted on wallboard, cardboard, plywood, or other suitable material to form the nucleus of a window display on nutrition or gardening. Little Exhibit No. 1 says "Eat this way every day," and the wing panels show strong and healthy children and war workers. The figures can be left out and garden tools and pictures used as supporting material. Little Exhibit No. 2 says "Plan, produce, store" and shows the farm family planning their home food supply. Space is

provided for a food budget, and the wing panels offer specific suggestions.

Both of these exhibits may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. No. 1 is priced at 15 cents and No. 2 at 10 cents. Each exhibit carries full instructions for assembly.

An old Spanish custom revived

Local service clubs and other organizations have rendered real service in many Texas counties by fostering cotton improvement through 4-H boys' clubs and other boys' organizations. These demonstrations have been carried out under the supervision of county agricultural agents. There is an old Spanish custom in Texas whereby merchants and others give a premium of money or merchandise or both to the farmer bringing in the first bale of cotton in the town or county. Last season the High Plains area of Texas innovated the offering of a cash prize to the farmer and ginner producing the best bale of cotton. Five hundred dollars was divided into two groups and the bale was judged according to staple. The project met with much high praise, and the program was repeated.

This movement spread to other areas and was successful in Young County and several counties in northeast Texas. More interest was stimulated by prorating the premiums 80 percent to farmers and 20 percent to the good ginner. The Brazos Valley Cotton Cooperative Marketing Association fostered this idea this season and split the premiums 50-50 between producer and ginner. War bonds were given as prizes.

Homemakers' club sponsors dental clinic

Imagine, if you can, school children hanging around the door of a dentist's office clamoring to be "next" in the dentist's chair! That really happened in Fulton County, Ky., last fall when the homemakers' clubs, with Mrs. J. C. Lawson as chairman, sponsored a traveling dental clinic for rural school children.

With the State Department of Health, the county nurse (Mrs. James Fisher, who assisted with the examinations), rural school teachers, and the homemakers' clubs cooperating, the services of a dentist and his State-owned trailer were obtained.

Setting up his office in two different parts of the county, Dr. J. G. Harnett filled, cleaned,

polished, and extracted teeth for 261 school children in 1 month. School busses were used to bring the patients to the dental centers.

"Not only the children were pleased with this special service but also the mothers and the members of the homemakers' clubs, said Mrs. Catherine C. Thompson, home demonstration agent. Never have the women sponsored a project in which they have been so deeply interested and from which they have seen such benefits.

"There was good reason, for as Dr. Harnett worked on a child's teeth he talked to him about the importance of drinking milk, eating the right foods, and brushing his teeth daily."

Reports which continue to come to Mrs. Thompson months after the completion of the project indicate the influence of the dentist on his young patients. There was 8-year-old Jimmy who "hated" milk and refused to drink it until Dr. Harnett explained why calcium was necessary for sound teeth and bones. Betty, whose last name might have been Sweet-tooth, spent every nickel she could for candy before she made that visit to the dentist; now she saves them for war stamps. There were dozens of other similar instances.

The total cost to the homemakers' clubs was \$100, which paid for the dental materials and for moving the trailer within the county.

Victory sales

Wayne County, Ohio, farmers are holding "Victory Sales" in the townships as a means of distributing unused farm equipment, according to County Agent G. A. Dustman.

Sales have already been held in Chester and Wayne townships. Others have been organized in Plain, Green, and Congress townships.

The Chester sale grossed more than \$1,850 and the Wayne sale \$1,625. There were 50 pieces of equipment in the former and 40 in the latter. Some of the equipment was entirely new.

Equipment is listed through the schools. Three percent is deducted to pay the auctioneer and clerk for their work. Any profit is donated to the Red Cross.

The sales are sponsored by the township and neighborhood groups of farmers set up under the 1943 Ohio "self help" program of labor and machinery sharing. This program has been organized by the Grange and Farm Bureau in Ohio in cooperation with the various USDA farm agencies.

to Do It

Dairy schools of the air

Missouri's wartime dairy schools of the air are proving very effective in these days of gas and tire rationing and other wartime restrictions, according to M. J. Regan, extension dairy husbandry specialist. In this way, 5,000 or more people are contacted at one time as compared to 50 or 60 reached with methods used before radio.

Each broadcast is a lesson directed at some wartime need and practice, such as: Feeding, care and management, and handling dry cows and cows at freshening time; and producing quality products. Farmers enroll in this school and receive copies of the lessons with additional material that cannot be given over the air. Those who enroll also get postal cards, addressed to the extension dairy specialists at the broadcasting station, on which the farmers can ask any particular question on dairying. These questions are later answered over the air.

Husking bees revived

Many of the young men from Wolford community, W. Va., have been called to the armed forces. Two of these boys who were called last October had raised a good crop of corn, and the corn was still standing in the field in shocks when the boys had to leave. They found it impossible to get the corn husked before they left. Two of the prominent farmers of the community, Dan Lawrence and Asa Pennington, talking over the situation, hit upon the plan of reviving the old custom of a husking bee to take care of the corn for the boys instead of giving them the usual type of farewell party.

The Wolford 4-H Club of 15 members were all anxious to take part in the event, so they persuaded the farmers of the community to have the husking bee at night so that the young people in school could take part in it.

On Monday, October 19, corn from a 10-acre field was piled up during the day. Electric lights were put out into the field, and that night after supper 16 men and boys and 11 women and girls began husking—and how they worked! There were friendly contests, swapping of stories and yarns, vying with each other to see who could find the most red ears; and, of course, it was lots of fun. By midnight, the corn had practically all been husked and hauled to the crib. Then the folks all joined in enjoying a midnight feast or supper.

Everyone enjoyed the husking bee so much that the next night another one was held at another farm in the community, and

250 bushels of corn were husked. The second event proved to be just as successful and enjoyable as the first. But two husking bees on successive nights called for a night of rest, and so on Wednesday everyone stayed at home and got some sleep.

But Thursday night found them all out again for the third husking bee. By this time the adventure had proved to be a success in everybody's mind; and, as 16 different farm families were represented in the husking bees, they had decided to have 16 of them, or one for each farm family participating.

Of course they weren't able to hold all of them as rapidly as the first three, but by the end of November the husking bees had been held for the entire community; and all of the corn had been husked, and everyone had a good time doing it.

M. R. McClung, county agricultural agent in Tucker County, reports that the Wolford community is now so thoroughly sold on the idea that cooperation will go a long way toward solving the farm labor problem that they have convinced other communities. Husking bees and other group activities in which all the farm people of the neighborhood or community join together are proving that teamwork makes the job easier.

Harnessing the air waves

Picture, if you will, nearly 500,000 square miles of the most fertile land lying in the heart of the agricultural Midwest.

Picture also the thousands of farm homes dotting this vast area, comprising virtually the backbone of the wartime food-production machine.

Add to this mental panorama an imaginary stratum of pulsating ether waves crisscrossing the entire area—blanketing that half million square miles of farm land and farm homes.

Envisage, if you can, thousands of radio sets in the comfortable living rooms of these same farm homes tuned to the favorite radio station—tapping this ever-present blanket of ether waves.

Over these radios comes entertainment, something to make isolated rural life more enjoyable. From these loudspeakers comes the news of the world—reports from the battlefields of events only a few hours old. But, most important of all, to the ears of that great audience of farm people come helpful suggestions and instructions on how to live on less and produce more—more food to win this war.

As a result, more efficient farming meth-

ods—virtually the only tool remaining that can be employed to obtain the food the United Nations must have—are being rushed into practice.

Produce bigger ears of corn, two potatoes where one grew, bigger hogs, more cattle, more eggs. Produce, produce, produce! That's the cry that echoes across the plains of the Midwest—chanted through the radios in those farm homes.

And the farmers are heeding the call. They are shouldering arms in the battle of the soil.

In cooperation with KSAC, the broadcasting station of the Kansas State College, 27 commercial stations scattered throughout Kansas and the surrounding States work kilocycle to kilocycle flashing information to listening audiences on how to produce more eggs, pigs, and cattle.

Supplementing these daily broadcasts of farm material over 28 Midwest radio stations, flanked on the west by KOA, Denver; the northeast by WLS, Chicago; the south by WBBZ, Ponca City, Okla., and the north by KMMJ, Grand Island, Nebr., are special programs presented over the Kansas State Network.

Surveys indicate that practically every one of these 27 stations uses the Extension Service radio script material in daily farm broadcasts. This radio informational set-up was first established in 1932, with only a few stations cooperating. It has been expanded and developed to its present completeness during the years.

At least once each year a tour of the stations is made by one or more of the information staff members to learn how script material is used and obtain suggestions for improving the service.

Some broadcasters present a 15-minute or half-hour program daily, based on the scripts. One large station has, for several years, presented an interesting farm program by dramatizing the material.

But, regardless of the form in which the scripts are broadcast, it is proving a good way to get every bit of information possible into the minds of thousands of farmers.—*Lowell Treaster, assistant extension editor, Kansas.*

■ Twenty-six neighborhoods in Fairfield County, S. C., held a 4-H mobilization meeting with 1,153 boys and girls and 403 adults attending. Seventeen clubs enrolled new members, pledging to raise 73 pigs, 24 acres of corn, 21 calves, 2,550 chickens, 36 acres of garden, 11 acres of sweetpotatoes, 7 acres of wheat, and 11 acres of peanuts.

Jefferson, father of agricultural science

M. L. WILSON, Director of Extension Work, United States Department of Agriculture

■ April 13 marked the opening of the bicentennial of Thomas Jefferson. On that day the Jefferson Memorial, begun some years before the present war and finished this past year, was dedicated and opened to the public.

In the coming months, our generation will have the opportunity to learn more about Jefferson's philosophies and ideals. They played a major part in the founding and structure of our Republic. What Jefferson stood for embodies all that for which our youth is now fighting on the battle fronts of the world.

Jefferson was a statesman, scientist, lawyer, diplomat, architect. He was the author of the Declaration of Independence. He was a pioneer advocate of the free system of public education. He was an architect—not only of our form of government but of beautiful buildings—and homes—and landscapes. He was the third President of the United States. In each of these fields of endeavor he made a distinguished contribution to the making and shaping of our country and the democratic way of life.

There is another place occupied by Jefferson which, it is my hope, will in the months ahead, come under closer scrutiny by farmers, extension workers, and all who are engaged in the study or teaching of agriculture in the United States.

Jefferson was a Virginia farmer and a champion of rural democracy. He envisioned America as a country where every family could own the farm it operated. He was not only a practical operating farmer, he was interested in the application of science to agriculture as well. He had unbounded faith in the improvements he believed science could bring to farming.

Today all of us engaged in the great job of wartime food production pay tribute to Jefferson's farsighted agricultural statesmanship. Jefferson did not believe that science should be confined to the laboratory and to books. He urged that useful knowledge and scientific methods be applied to the land—to lessen man's burden—to increase his yields—to bring about a better civilization for all. We of this age, engaged in a methodical, scientific kind of farming which far exceeds Jefferson's vision, pay tribute to his practical foresight.

We look to Jefferson and his associates in the field of science with reverence. We respect the way in which they discussed and tried out their theories in scientific and learned societies. To propose a new theory and to defend it before these societies took intelligence, conviction, strength of character, tolerance, and the freest kind of democratic procedure.

Jefferson was a member and the third pres-

ident of the American Philosophical Society. It was the first of the colonial scientific societies and the leading one during the period of the American Revolution. Benjamin Franklin had been its founder and first president. Franklin is known as the father of science in this country. Likewise, Jefferson stands out more and more as the father of agricultural science in the United States.

Jefferson made many personal contributions. While in France he sent home new varieties of plants which he thought would do well on our native soil. He kept a garden book. He kept a farm book. Each of these is full of notes that shed light on Jefferson's farming operations. He was one of the first Americans to express interest in keeping records of the weather. In his farm book he kept notes on "plowing days" throughout the year.

Perhaps Jefferson's most outstanding practical contribution to farming was his plow. The function of the moldboard—or plow-ear as it was also known—was to remove and turn sod over gradually with the least amount of pull or force. Plow moldboards had undergone considerable improvement in the eighteenth century. Individual improvements were practiced by farmers who made them. In this country, settlers were largely dependent on wooden moldboard, home-made plows. Jefferson believed that much labor could be saved if farmers had simple directions for making moldboards. He designed a "moldboard of least resistance." Of it an English writer said a generation later: "It can be made by any common workman by a process so exact that its form will not vary the thickness of a hair."

We know that a wooden model built along the lines proposed was at one time used on Jefferson's own farm. Agricultural engineers in the Department of Agriculture who have recently studied Jefferson's drawings are of the opinion that, compared with the plows of Jefferson's time, the "moldboard of least resistance" was a real improvement. His was the last important improvement in the wooden plow. Soon after his developments came the cast-iron plow.

Jefferson's writings—and Jefferson's notes about gardening, farming, and agricultural science—offer a valuable field for study and research. When the war is over, considerably more study should be given to Jefferson, the farmer and scientist, by agricultural historians. Such study should not be confined to Jefferson's own writings but should include those of his elders and contemporaries whose writings on agriculture made a noteworthy contribution to the development of the American system of farming and farm life.

Extension workers, whose lives are largely

devoted to helping farm people improve their production methods and standards of living through scientific methods of farming, will have a special interest in learning more about Jefferson's contribution to our Nation's agriculture. Several years ago, the Department of Agriculture and the land-grant colleges celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the land-grant college system. Emphasis was placed on the contributions of Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln to the agriculture of our country. Washington was pointed to as the foremost farmer of his day. Jefferson was mentioned as the founder of scientific agriculture in this country. Lincoln was honored as a Midwest farm boy who, while President, signed the Land-Grant College Act. All three played an important part in making the agriculture of our country truly great. Had it not been for these three men and the agricultural ideals for which they stood, the agricultural development of our Nation might not have been what it is today.

In this year 1943, American farmers face the greatest challenge ever faced by men—and women—who love freedom as Jefferson loved it. As their contribution to preserve this freedom, our farmers have sent their sons to the world's battle fronts. Here at home they have undertaken the greatest food-production job in history. With only 4 percent of the world's tillable land, American farmers are aiming at goals which, if they are met, will enable our soldiers, and our civilians, and the soldiers and civilians of Allied Nations, to win the fight for freedom.

There is no higher tribute which extension workers can pay to Thomas Jefferson—patriot—philosopher—farmer—than to assist every farmer down the road in taking advantage of every opportunity this year to apply science in practice wherever it will save labor and produce more food. In this way we can win the battle of food production. In this way we can preserve the freedom which Jefferson cherished.

Food banks

A unique and important part of Delaware's Victory Garden program is the establishment of food banks. Delaware is in a vulnerable area. Definite plans for evacuation had to be made in case of war emergency. Food, of course, would be a vital problem. So it was decided to have food stored at certain designated centers.

Food centers have been set up in all three counties. Last year families contributed 18,000 jars of canned vegetables or fruits. In the event of an emergency, these supplies are to be turned over to the Red Cross canteen and evacuation committees which will be officially in charge of feeding the evacuees or victims of an emergency. After a certain length of time, if the supplies have not been used, the food will be turned over to various welfare agencies for distribution to the needy.

4-H sponsors radio public-speaking contest

JOSEPHINE BJORNSON, Department of Publications, University of Minnesota

■ In Minnesota, where 4-H Clubs have keyed their activities to victory, a new 4-H project was attempted which was as different from the regular war activities as it was closely related to them. The project, a radio public-speaking contest had unprecedented success.

Many skeptical leaders were amazed to see the enthusiasm with which 4-H boys and girls and older youth entered the contest. Several hundred Minnesota youth participated, representing three-fourths of the counties in the State.

The close relationship of the radio contest to the 4-H victory program lay in the subject that was chosen—What the Four Freedoms Mean to Me. The contest sought to encourage young people to crystallize their thinking and express it effectively in terms of the significance of the Four Freedoms to each individual member.

Although participants in local contests did not make radio appearances, county winners broadcast their talks over local radio stations. Thus 64 of the contestants had the experience of talking into the microphone. Choice of the State champion and the State alternate, Charles Benrud and Kathleen Weis, was made on the basis of a broadcast over WCCO and KSTP, Twin City stations, and a State network.

The Minnesota Jewish Council, cosponsor of the event, made available \$1,000 for scholarships, war bonds, and stamps for the participants.

Many of the contestants were grandchildren or great-grandchildren of immigrants who had come to America to find a new way of life. Most of these boys and girls had never stopped to think in terms of what the Four Freedoms actually meant or what life would be without those Four Freedoms. As one of the contestants put it, "I've always had enough to eat, nothing to fear, and freedom of speech and religion. What more could I or anyone else wish for? When people are content, they don't usually stop to think about their happiness, they just accept it; and so approximately 133 million people have been accepting the freedoms of our country without much thought.

"But," she continues, "now that our freedoms are threatened by the Axis powers, we must begin to think and act to show how much these freedoms mean to us."

In many ways, typical of the hundreds of 4-H youth who entered the contest was Phyllis Misk whose great-grandfather immigrated to America from Czechoslovakia where life, as

he knew it, had meant neither freedom of speech nor of religion but only work from sunrise to sunset under the rich Hapsburg rulers.

Her own philosophy enriched by stories her grandfather told, Phyllis says in speaking of the Four Freedoms: "... we must fight for America if only for the reason that our forefathers built it, sacrificed comforts, friends, and even life for America. But there are even greater reasons to fight. I must fight for their visions, their Utopian land, so that they have not died in vain.

"I must fight for freedom of speech, not because I ever have been denied freedom of speech but because my forefathers fought and died for this freedom and so that our chil-

dren may never have to die for this God-given right.

"I must fight for freedom of religion . . . because my forefathers fought and died for this freedom so that I need never support a church I do not believe in. Because they valued this freedom, I must value it and pass it on to my children . . .

"I must fight for freedom from want . . . I must fight for my forefathers' vision of great rolling acres of black soil with the golden harvest of crops . . . I must preserve the freedom from want so that my children never go cold or hungry . . .

"And, last but not least, I must fight for freedom from fear . . . I have never seen a baby crying in a bombed street with its mother dead by its side. I have never seen a firing squad. I have never seen men, women, and children fall from exhaustion and starvation. I have never feared any of these things, and I solemnly swear that my children never will . . ."

As a result of this radio public-speaking contest, to this girl and to several hundred other 4-H boys and girls, the Four Freedoms suddenly became vitally significant.

4-H Clubs give war equipment

■ 4-H Club boys and girls throughout the country, who are honoring former members now in the armed forces through the National 4-H Ambulance Fund, recently presented a stock of small arms and ammunition to the United States Navy in a colorful ceremony at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The equipment included 800 each of used rifles, bayonets, bayonet scabbards, 1,212 cartridge belts, 1,164 gun slings, and all of the ammunition, both blank and ball, which was purchased from the Wisconsin State Militia with monetary contributions from 4-H Club members, leaders, and agents to the 4-H Ambulance Fund sponsored by the National 4-H Club News. The contributions comprised proceeds from the sale of scrap metal and rubber, waste paper, and old phonograph records and from box socials, parties, benefit programs, prize money, and various other sources.

Previous gifts presented by the 4-H Ambulance Fund included an ambulance-station wagon and 450 comfort kits to the American Red Cross and an ambulance to the United States Army. Total contributions on March 15 were \$4,803.28.

Among those participating in the presentation ceremony at Madison, Wis., were Commander L. K. Pollard, U. S. N., (Ret.), commanding officer of the United States Naval Training Schools on the University of Wisconsin campus; Jane Davies of Wild Rose, Wis., 4-H Club member from Waushara County and a member of the U. W. 4-H Club;

and Merlin Wright of Waukesha, Wis., former 4-H Club member and local leader, cadet lieutenant in R. O. T. C., who was president of the U. W. 4-H Club last semester.

The 4-H Ambulance Fund Drive, which will be continued until July 4 next, will now be directed primarily to the collection by 4-H Club members of scrap metal which is primarily needed to make more arms and equipment for our armed forces. This is in response to the request from the War Production Board through Chairman Donald M. Nelson for 3,000,000 tons of scrap by July.

Map fills the bill

Joe Taylor, 4-H Club agent, of Cortland County, N. Y., gets new 4-H Club members by using the clock-system map on which every farm in the county is located, with the names listed in a booklet. Using small, green-headed pins, he located all of the 1942 club members on the map. Using the school census and eliminating club members, he put red pins on the map to locate prospective club members for 1943. The map shows the concentration of club members in some areas and limited enrollment in others. The red pins show by their groupings just where in the county are the best prospects for organizing new clubs. He thus saves considerable travel. Mr. Taylor says the map saves time in laying out work and gives him a clearer picture of membership distribution and possibilities than any other device he has yet tried.

Farm workers pro tem

The responsibility of mobilizing local workers to meet crop emergencies has been delegated to extension agents by the Secretary of Agriculture. These three examples of successful recruiting in Rhode Island described by Extension Editor H. M. Hofford are typical of the ways in which it will be done:

■ Edwin Knight has a 32-acre apple orchard near Greenville, R. I. Last summer he saw his trees—some 2,000 of them—laden with the biggest crop he'd had in years, but with no one to help him get out the harvest.

He told his plight to the northern Rhode Island county agent, who, working with the extension horticulturist, the State Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Markets, arranged to have a "picnic workday" for statehouse stenographers.

On Tuesday, August 11, Mr. Knight sent a bus to the capitol; and as soon as the girls, 14 of them, closed their typewriters for the day at 4 o'clock, they climbed into overalls, boarded Mr. Knight's bus, and were carted to the Greenville orchard. At 4:30 they began picking, and when the picnic supper bell rang at 7 o'clock, they had gathered 147 bushels. The local Red Cross canteen was mobilized to prepare the supper.

The girls were paid 10 cents a bushel, and the \$14.70 they earned that afternoon they gave to the USO—because the change from office routine, combined with beneficial exercise, and the knowledge that they were aiding in our war effort were worth more than the pin money they had earned as farm laborers.

Their exploit set an example for other urban groups who came forward to volunteer when needed, and it is expected that there will be a good bit more of it this summer in the farm-labor-shortage area of Rhode Island where war industries have drained the reservoir of surplus help that would ordinarily be available in the seasonal agriculture of the State.

Practical persons who might want to discredit the capabilities of high-school pupils as farm laborers can ask Everett McCaughey, instructor of vocational agriculture at South Kingston, R. I., high school, whether such youngsters are able workers.

He knows, because last September when Rhode Island potato growers telephoned him for help to get in the potatoes, he arranged his classes so that a group of from 14 to 20 pupils could work in the fields every other day and all day Saturdays for the 6 weeks when the potato farmers needed them.

By having double periods a day, the pupils were able to get the same amount of academic "hourage," being willing to sacrifice their free study periods to the cause of getting out the crop. They were paid 5 cents a bushel, and it was an easy day's pay to check in for \$3 at least.

As youngsters are of varying strength, Mr. McCaughey let the less rugged boys—and one girl—do the lighter jobs; and the stronger ones pitched in at the heavier lifting, hauling, and bagging jobs, for which they were paid 50 cents an hour.

His crew worked from 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m., and by the time the corn harvest season came along, the farmers were paying 60 cents an hour for shucking corn. And the lads of 12

Snap beans from Maine to Louisiana

■ It takes plenty of hand labor to harvest snap beans, whether they grow at the top or the bottom of the United States. Patriotic farmers way down East in Maine and way down South in Louisiana heard the war call for more vegetables, expanded their plantings of green beans, and gambled on their ability to harvest them. They were justified in their faith by schoolboys. Boys of the Scout troop in Penobscot County, Maine, saved a quarter million pounds of beans last summer, and schoolboys and girls of Terrebonne Parish, La., are even now picking the snap beans from an acreage six times that of last year.

School out to pick beans

The war seemed a long way off from the Parish of Terrebonne in southern Louisiana. But when the call came to plant more and more vegetables this year, the farmers responded wholeheartedly. They were asked to increase their production of snap beans by 10 percent. In their enthusiasm, they planted six times as many snap beans as last year—10,000 acres of beans. They planted 30,000 acres of Irish potatoes, too.

That is a lot of beans and potatoes, no two ways about it! But Terrebonne farmers refused to be discouraged by the shortage of labor and the mountains of vegetables. They held a series of conferences, enlisting the help of their county agent, the Farm Bureau, the parish war board, the Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce, and the parish police jury.

They decided that the teen-age boys and girls in the parish schools were the best source of labor, so they asked for the cooperation of the local superintendent of education, H. L. Bourgeois. Mr. Bourgeois was

and 13 proved to be the best workers, Mr. McCaughey reports.

That war workers employed in factories react favorably to a change of routine as farm laborers was proved last summer in industrial Rhode Island.

When the State's fruit growers were threatened with the loss of thousands of bushels of apples because they did not have the help needed to bring in the harvest, some mill owners in the apple district posted notices in their plants urging workers of the middle shift to volunteer part of their day, while not working in the plant, as farm assistants.

Thus, throughout the daylight hours, apple growers had a flow of war workers, many of whom were glad of the chance to get some of the crop in pay rather than cash. As a result, more apples were available in Rhode Island locker plants and more glasses of apple jelly on pantry shelves this past winter.

wholeheartedly in favor of enlisting the young people as pickers if a satisfactory plan could be worked out.

The school board met, representing towns and rural districts alike, and a committee of the growers presented their problems. The school board came to the rescue valiantly, voted to hold school on Saturday so that the work of the term could be finished by May 15 rather than May 28. Harvesting of snap beans will begin about May 1, and from that time on school will be dismissed earlier each afternoon to give the boys and girls several hours of picking time before dark.

School busses will be used in transporting the boys and girls to and from the fields, and the pickers will be paid the regular rates which are based on the number of pounds picked. Approximately 2,000 workers will be made available through this plan, and those beans and potatoes should be picked in record time.

There was no compulsion about the board of education's plan, but the youthful recruits seem to realize that the need is acute and the time is short. Excellent cooperation seems assured.

Scouts save crop for Uncle Sam

About a hundred Maine youngsters from the Bangor-Brewer-Old Town-Orono area pioneered in a social and economic experiment in two shoestring-operated work camps near Dexter and Hartland to save a quarter million pounds of green beans which otherwise would have rotted on the vines for lack of pickers. The boys, averaging 14 years of age, were all members of Boy Scout troops; and they worked in the Penobscot County bean fields because Carl Thunberg of Bangor,

Katahdin Council Scout executive, was willing to gamble on their willingness and ability to reclaim a bean crop sorely needed in the war effort in a work entirely foreign to nearly all of them.

Carl Thunberg, the quietly brilliant, slightly stubborn, and entirely likable Scout executive, was willing to bet on the two most variable things known to mankind—weather and city boys in the country—to harvest that bean crop for Uncle Sam.

When he thought of establishing work camps for Scouts in the green-bean section of the county, several difficulties not easily overcome obtruded themselves: First, how to sell the idea to parents and youngsters; next, how to get equipment and supplies for the centers where the youth would stay; and how the enrollment at Camp Roosevelt, Scout institution on Little Fitts Pond, would be affected by the establishment of two noncost camps—camps where the Scouts earned money.

He put the matter up to the Katahdin Council committee which gave him permission to go forward with the project; and after several weeks of consultation with employment officials, packers, farmers, and youth leaders, the locations were chosen and the business of borrowing equipment from many sources began. Farmers, packers, Government men, leaders of youth, all agreed with the Scout executive that the jobs could be done by the boys. And they all pitched in to get stoves, tents, and other necessary equipment.

The camps are necessarily run in a business-like fashion. The St. Albans center is under the leadership of Manning N. Arata, field Scout executive of Hancock. It serves the area in and about Hartland. The Dexter camp, known as Camp Victory, is administered by Fred Quigley, Dexter school teacher, veteran Scouter, and a friend to all boys. Both camps work in conjunction with big packing companies.

The boys in the two "food for victory" camps work 6 hours a day, receiving approximately 1¼ cents a pound or about 20 cents a basket for beans picked. A fee of \$1 a day is charged against each Scout—the amount calculated for operating expenses. This fee establishes the work objective of each camper, and each Scout allowed to remain at the camp must maintain average earnings of at least three-fourths of this amount. Scouts who pick at a rate beyond that which will earn their fees receive the balance due them at the end of their stay in camp. No cash transactions are allowed in the camps; a coupon system does the work.

The boy who doesn't want to work, or who comes to the camps anticipating to be boarded and paid for clowning his way through what is supposed to be a working day, returns home. This is war, even for youngsters.

There is a keen competition between the patrols at Camp Victory in Dexter, and a

kind of joyous, friendly rivalry springs up when a youngster triumphantly shouts "Basket!" and takes it to be weighed.

The Scouts are turning into real farmers, according to Fred Quigley, Camp Victory's director, who is seldom seen without a group of boys affectionately trailing him.

"They look at the sky like old hands and

want good weather as much as the crop owners," he says.

And Horace McKenney, a Dexter farmer for whom about 25 of the Scouts worked—a man who never wastes words—says, "Most of 'em are pretty good."

That is about as near to an accolade as one is likely to get.

Former 4-H Club members attend agricultural colleges

■ At the request of the extension subcommittee on 4-H Club work, a survey of former 4-H Club members attending agricultural colleges has just been completed by R. A. Turner of the Federal Extension Service. This annual Nation-wide survey is the third of this type. Each year, a higher percentage of former 4-H members has been reported.

Data show that 8,001 students, or 33.99 percent, now enrolled in agriculture and home economics courses in the agricultural colleges of 37 States and Puerto Rico are former 4-H Club members. The total enrollment in these courses is 23,539.

For the college year 1942-43, Nebraska is first, with 51.29 percent of these students being former 4-H Club members; Alabama second, with 50.49 percent; Illinois third, with 50.22 percent; Indiana fourth, with 49.84 percent; Kansas fifth, with 49.20 percent; Minnesota sixth, with 45.96 percent; Missouri seventh, with 43.69 percent, and Kentucky eighth, with 43.41 percent.

For the first time, Negro colleges have been included in these annual surveys. Data from 8 of the Negro land-grant colleges show that of the reported 1,675 students in agriculture and home economics, 310, or 18.51 percent, are former 4-H Club members. Of these 8 Negro colleges, North Carolina ranks first with 36.50 percent, and Florida second, with 32.35 percent.

Many of these students made their first contact with the agricultural college through their 4-H Club activities. The awarding of scholarships to 4-H Club members might have been a factor in encouraging attendance at the State colleges of agriculture. It is evident, in view of these data, that the 4-H Club program is fostering a desire on the part of 4-H Club members to obtain additional scholastic training, and is directing an increasing number toward agricultural colleges.

No attempt was made to obtain information on enrollment in courses other than agriculture and home economics, or at any college other than the State colleges of agriculture.

Soldiers from Camp Breckenridge helped to save river bottom corn for Indiana and Kentucky farmers during a flood of the Ohio River in January. The picture was taken by R. A. Burger, assistant county agent, Posey County, Ind.



Do people listen to extension broadcasts?

The importance of radio in extension wartime programs is brought out in a recent survey of listener interest. Nearly 80 percent of the rural people surveyed in seven Pennsylvania counties listened to extension agricultural programs, and 66 percent had heard some of the home economics programs. More than a fourth of the people tuned in on extension broadcasts regularly.

Two-thirds of all those surveyed said that various radio programs had prompted them to attend meetings, adopt suggestions given, or to request bulletins.

The majority of the listeners preferred "variety" programs of 15 to 30 minutes—combined agriculture and home economics programs with different speakers touching upon several subjects. Many liked the question-and-answer method of presenting information. Some wanted more variety—band music, answers to questions sent in by the radio audience, dramatization, and rebroadcasts.

The National Farm and Home Hour was considered the best agricultural program by 57 percent of the people studied. Good music, variety, suitable time, excellence of presentation, and helpful ideas were emphasized as reasons for the choice of this program.

Local agricultural programs, including agricultural extension, were preferred by 28 percent of the listeners because the information was related to local conditions, local news, appearance of local people on the program, and personal acquaintanceship with the county agent.

According to this survey, the best time for the agricultural extension program is from 12 to 1 p. m.; second best, 6 to 9 p. m., and third, 6 to 7 a. m. The best time for the home program is some time near noon; second choice is midmorning.—AN EXTENSION RADIO SURVEY OF SEVEN PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES, Pennsylvania Extension Service Publication, 1942.

A 4-H educative experience

Kentucky's 4-H Junior Week was a significant event in the lives of the boys and girls attending. They had a good time. They greatly enjoyed the program and learned much from the variety of activities. This was the consensus of 527 boys and girls who filled out questionnaires relating to the activities of the week.

The trip was an important one for them. For one out of five 4-H members, the distance was the farthest they had traveled from home. For one out of eight members it was the longest period they had been away from home. They made many new friends. On the average, each member learned to know about 60 boys and girls well enough to speak to one another when they met in

EXTENSION RESEARCH

Studying Our Job of
Extension Teaching

passing. The boys learned to know more boys than girls, and the girls became acquainted with more girls than boys.

An essential characteristic for the continuation of a voluntary activity is that the participants enjoy the activity. Enjoyment provides favorable conditions for learning; it also produces desirable reverberations in the home community. Club members attending Junior Week enjoyed the activities and program. From the standpoint of enjoyment, all activities received a high rating by the boys and girls. Little difference was reported between the ratings made by the boys and girls with the exception of the style dress revue, which the girls enjoyed more than the boys. There was very little difference in their interest and reactions whether attending for the first or second time. Attending the second time did not seem to dull the edge of enjoyment.

The 4-H Club members learned much from the activities of the program. Team demonstrations, judging, and subject-matter classes placed high. There was no marked difference between the judgments of the boys and girls in the amount learned except in the style dress revue, election of officers, and social activities. JUNIOR WEEK EVALUATION STUDY—KENTUCKY, by J. W. Whitehouse, Kentucky Extension Service; and Fred P. Frutchey, Federal Extension Service. Ky. Ext. Serv. Pub. 1942.

Do rural young people stay on the farm?

Seven out of every 10 of the 117 rural young men and women interviewed in 4 townships of Ward County, N. Dak., preferred to live on a farm. Their reasons included: Like farm work and farm life, more security, more independence, and farm life more healthful and pleasant.

The majority of these young people preferred farm life; of those who left the area, most went to the cities. They gave the following reasons for preferring city life: More social life and entertainment; less work and more pleasant work; and do not like farming. On the whole, those preferring city life were younger than those preferring farm life.

Only 11 of the 117 young people (all of

whom had finished the eighth grade) were still in school. Lack of money was the reason two-fifths of the youth had stopped attending school, and one-fifth believed they had enough schooling.

—FACTS ABOUT RURAL YOUTH IN WARD COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA, North Dakota Extension Service Publication, November 10, 1942.

4-H members learn to raise sheep

With wartime needs for meat and wool, the increase in sheep production by Missouri 4-H Club members takes on added significance. Renewed emphasis has been placed on 4-H sheep activities in Missouri since 1940, when a study was made of the educational values of the 4-H sheep project. In 1941, enrollment increased 160 percent, and in 1942, following Pearl Harbor, a further increase was made. Enrollment in 1942 was more than double that of 1940. The number of sheep owned by Missouri 4-H members has increased more than two and one-half times.

In addition to increasing their sheep production, the 4-H sheep raisers have learned much from their project. The 4-H sheep members tested at the beginning and end of their 1940 project increased considerably their knowledge of sheep information relating to feeding, diseases and parasites, docking and castrating, wool crop and shearing, marketing, and the Missouri plan of sheep improvement. Although the members knew relatively little about sheep diseases and parasites at the beginning of their project, the tests indicated they had gained relatively much, particularly in the identification and control of stomach worms infesting sheep. The large increase in marketing information was due largely to the members learning that lambs sold in May or June usually bring higher prices and usually escape internal parasites, and also that less weight shrinkage can be expected when suckling lambs are fed grain.

While the members were conducting their sheep activities, their ideas changed considerably as to the relative importance of the nine project goals tested. The leadership goal increased in importance from seventh to fifth place. The profit goal dropped from third to sixth place. The companionship (pet) goal jumped from sixth to third place. Prize winning, for the average 4-H sheep member, was not one of the most important goals. It occupied eighth place at the beginning and again at the end of the sheep project. The vocational goal remained in first place at the end of the project.

EDUCATIONAL GROWTH IN THE 4-H SHEEP PROJECT, MISSOURI, 1939-40, by Fred P. Frutchey, Federal Extension Service, and E. T. Itschner, Missouri Extension Service. Ext. Serv. Circ. 378, Feb. 1942. (Fourth in the Series of Evaluation Studies in 4-H Club Work.)

FARM WEEK CHAFF



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JAMES C. WEISEL, President

JOHN W. H. THORNBORROW, Vice-President

W. H. ALLEN, Secretary

Vol. 7 No. 3

Trenton, N. J.

January 27, 1943

The place of food in the war program is all shown in a nutshell across the top of the mimeographed periodical Farm Week Chaff, issued by the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

A threshing ring

When labor shortage threatened to immobilize threshing machines in Utah County, Utah, last August, Thomas M. Anderson, president of the Lake Shore Farm Bureau, called a group of farmers to his home early one evening to talk over the problem of getting their grain threshed.

Farmers who attended agreed that, inasmuch as their county had found itself in one of the most rapidly developing industrial areas in the West, little or no relief in the labor shortage would be forthcoming. Consequently, they voted to organize a threshing ring, and right then made plans.

Mr. Anderson reports that 10 farmers in the same neighborhood pooled their labor, teams, and wagons, and selected a good thresher operator with a machine, and they threshed all the grain for the 10 farmers in 9 days. No help was hired, and there were no complaints. On the contrary, there was much satisfaction expressed by the members of the pool because they finished the job in a reasonable time and had crew enough to do each day's work.

So successful was this and other pools in Utah County that Agricultural Agent S. R. Boswell is recommending that a leader or group of leaders be selected to promote such type of cooperation in the various communities in his county.

Negro boys and girls—635 of them—in Florence County, S. C., have made a food-production record which is encouraging to the war effort. Home gardens were increased by 95 acres of vegetables; almost 9,000 quarts of meats and vegetables were canned; 95 boys produced more than 3,000 bushels of corn; 100 boys fattened 167 pigs for home use; 45 club members raised 5,437 broilers; and 14 fattened beef calves for canning and marketing, all of which is no mean contribution to Food for Victory by the Negro boys and girls of one county.

■ War also interferes with visual aids! Our contractor also produces slidefilms for the Navy whose orders carry an AA-1 priority. Shipments of our films are, therefore, sometimes delayed. March was the biggest month we have had for a long time.

A visual aid which was pioneered by Extension has found usefulness in helping the Navy with its wartime training program. Lt. John Fox, U. S. N. R., one-time member of the North Carolina Extension staff, reports the Navy's visual handbook starts out with "The most outstanding user of slidefilms has been the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture," or words to that effect.

Selective Service

A four-point program to keep necessary agricultural workers on the farm:

1. State and county War Boards are authorized and instructed to seek deferment of necessary farm workers when the worker or employer fails to request deferment, and to take appeals from local board decisions re farm workers when they believe such action is justified.

2. Local boards shall refer to a War Board farm workers who are not producing enough agricultural units to warrant classification in Class II-C or III-C and shall allow 30 days for placement where workers can produce the required number of units.

3. Local Selective Service boards are instructed to classify in Class II-C or III-C any registrant with agricultural experience who has left farm for other work, provided he returns to agriculture and becomes regularly engaged in and essential to it prior to his receipt of order to report for induction into the armed forces.

4. Local Selective Service boards are instructed not to reclassify necessary farm workers out of deferred classifications, even if calls for military manpower remain unfilled.

Farm workers are being transferred to farm-deferred classes at nearly 6,500 a day, and by the end of 1943, it is estimated, 3,032,000 will have been so classified.

H. J. Wilder retires

Henry J. Wilder, county agent in San Bernardino County, Calif., for the past 22 years, and extension agent in the United States Department of Agriculture for the preceding 12 years, retired from active service in January of this year. Thus he has spent 33 years in extension work and has been one of the strong men of the service who has helped make Extension effective and respected throughout the Nation.

Mr. Wilder is continuing his residence in San Bernardino County, where he has two orange groves to keep him busy and active in the agricultural affairs of the county.

Graduating from Harvard University in 1897 with a B. A. degree, he became a teacher of science there until 1901, when he received an appointment as soils expert in the United States Bureau of Soils and continued work with that Bureau and the Federal Office of Farm Management until 1914, when he gave his time fully to Extension in the States Relations Service. The best wishes of all Extension forces go with Mr. Wilder in his retirement. May the useful years still before him be many.

■ Arizona 4-H boys in Kenilworth School, Pinal County, specialize in scrap and cotton. LeRoy M. Gavette, assistant county agent, reports more than 5,000 pounds of scrap collected and more than 20,000 pounds of cotton picked by the 10 members of the club. Figuring 45 pounds of cotton to the parachute, this cotton would make 450 parachutes.

On the Calendar

National Council State Garden Clubs, regional, Tulsa, Okla., May 6-7.

American Guernsey Cattle Club, Boston, Mass., May 10-12.

American Home Economics Association, regional, Social Welfare and Public Health Department, Cleveland, Ohio, May 24-28.

Association Dairy, Food, and Drug Officials, United States, Denver, Colo., May 24-28.

Rural Life Sunday, May 30.

4-H Club Radio Program, Farm and Home Hour, Blue Network, June 5.

American Association for Advancement of Science, regional, Corvallis, Oreg., June 14-19.

American Society Horticultural Science, Western Section, Corvallis, Oreg., May 14-19.

American Home Economics Association, Delegates Planning Section, Washington, D. C., June 18-21.

The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

NEW YORK APPOINTED a State Food Commission to promote food production and assure coordination of the State's food supplies. Director of Extension Carl E. Ladd is a member of the commission. Immediate problems include mobilization of dairy and poultry feed supplies, transportation, supplies for Victory Gardens, farm labor, and production of cheese for lend-lease.

UTAH'S HOME FOOD SUPPLY FOR VICTORY window stickers will be given to families pledging to produce at least 50 percent of their food. If the family fulfills the pledge, when a check-up is made this fall, a Certificate of Merit, which has the agricultural college seal and is signed by Governor Herbert B. Maw and Director William Peterson, will be awarded.

RECRUITMENT OF BAHAMA ISLANDERS for farm work in south Florida began on March 25. The first group arrived at Miami April 9; about 5,000 are expected. The Government of the Bahama Islands signed an agreement with the Department of Agriculture providing for the importation of workers, both men and women, from the islands into the United States for agricultural employment in Florida and adjoining States. This is the second agreement which the United States Government has negotiated to bring in foreign farm workers to assist as needed with this Nation's wartime food and fiber production in labor-shortage areas. A program for the employment of Mexican agricultural workers in California, Arizona, and other southwestern States has been in progress since last August. An agreement has been worked out with the Government of Jamaica, calling for importation of up to 10,000 workers.

ONE OUT OF EVERY 10—or more than 100,000—farmer-borrowers who had Federal land bank and Land Bank Commissioner loans repaid his loan in full in 1942, the Department of Agriculture reported. Others made substantial payments on the principal of their loans.

FDA PURCHASES SHOW DECLINE. Purchase of agricultural commodities by the Food Distribution Administration for lend-lease, territorial emergency programs, Red Cross, and other purposes during February declined approximately 30 percent compared with January, the Department of Agriculture says. Although the purchases reflect smaller acquisitions of meats generally, grain products, and most of the other commodity groups, there were increases in purchases of soluble

coffee, American cheese, dry whole milk, smoked pork, dried sausage, dry salt fish, oleo oil, rendered pork fat, granulated sugar, rice, and concentrated orange juice.

EARLY SHEARING OF SHEEP solves war problem. With many shearers in the service, and curtailment in manufacture of sheep-shearing machines and equipment, the job of harvesting the 1943 Kansas wool clip presented a serious problem. To meet the situation, steps were taken to lengthen the shearing season by starting 6 weeks earlier than usual. County shearing circuits were also organized. Increased efficiency in use of limited number of shearers and equipment has resulted, and on April 1 the shearing job was well past the halfway mark. Early shearing was recommended for only those farms where shed and barn protection would safeguard newly shorn sheep from cold. Flock owners report excellent results with feeder lambs and ewes with lambs. The value of the Kansas wool clip totals many millions of dollars.

GREENSBORO PATRIOT of Greensboro, N. C., ran a Victory Garden edition March 25, 1943. The paper contained plenty of pictures of 4-H gardens and a series of pictures showing just how to prepare the ground and plant a Victory Garden, to fight insects, and to cultivate to keep down weeds and grass.

4-H CLUB MEMBERS OF UNION PARISH, LA., raised enough money for the purchase of an army ambulance and a peep, which they presented at the county 4-H achievement

day at Farmerville on April 24. The money was raised in a special egg campaign under the direction of Assistant County Agent Dalton E. Gandy. More than 1,300 dozen eggs were donated by 4-H Club members and sold to a dehydrating plant which has a government contract, thus assuring the Union Parish club members that they are also making a definite contribution to the wartime Food for Freedom program.

FOOD PRODUCTION RESOURCES of the United Kingdom, the British Dominions, and the United States have been highly coordinated to more effectively supply the food needs of the United Nations, the Department of Agriculture reports in the March issue of Foreign Agriculture. The publication, prepared by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, in its monthly review of foreign farm policy and trade, says in part: "Production of the largest quantities possible of calories and the essential proteins, vitamins, and minerals at or near the place of consumption to save needed shipping space has been the common goal of the British Empire countries."

A CONSERVATION OF CLOTHING and Home Furnishings Week was held in Kansas, April 5 to 12, to answer such questions as: Why are some merchants short of clothing and home-furnishings merchandise? What are the best methods of care, storage, and repair of all articles of clothing, household linens, and other furnishings? Why is there a buying panic among women at the textiles counters and in the clothing departments? Extension workers prepared demonstrations, exhibits, and window displays which presented a graphic picture of the storage of wool, leather, rubber footwear, and hats; correct laundering of fine fabrics; making over garments; slip-covering chairs; and many other phases of these all-important phases of home-front conservation.

MINNESOTA FARMERS will have opportunity to get some of the ideas in training experienced workers which industry has developed during recent months. Twelve Minnesota extension specialists have been trained in the job-instruction training method by a member of the Minneapolis regional office of the War Manpower Commission. At a special conference, April 12 to 15, all county agricultural and home demonstration agents received training and made plans to carry the ideas to farmers. An extension committee is adapting the Job Instructor Training guide to agricultural use. Those who saw L. J. Fletcher of the War Activities Committee, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, give the introductory JIT demonstration at the Baltimore and St. Louis labor conferences agree that "it is the best demonstration on how to give a demonstration" that they have seen. The JIT slogan, "If the worker hasn't learned, the instructor hasn't taught," is sound extension philosophy.

EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

Published monthly by direction of the Secretary of Agriculture as administrative information required for the proper transaction of the public business, and with the approval of the Bureau of the Budget as required by Rule 42 of the Joint Committee on Printing. The REVIEW is issued free by law to workers engaged in extension activities. Others may obtain copies from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents per copy or by subscription at \$1.00 a year, domestic, and \$1.40, foreign. Postage stamps are not acceptable in payment.

Lester A. Schlup, *Editor*

Clara L. Bailey, *Associate Editor*

Dorothy L. Bigelow, *Editorial Assistant*

Mary B. Sawrie, *Art Editor*

EXTENSION SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

M. L. WILSON, *Director*
REUBEN BRIGHAM, *Assistant Director*